

To: California History Social Science Framework Revision Committee

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Line 1176 & Line 1666

In 1932, Los Angeles County expelled my paternal as well as maternal grandmothers, Librada Oropeza and Felicitas Castro along with their American born children to Mexico. As a consequence, my grandmothers were subjected to a life of poverty, hunger, homelessness and unsurmountable hardships. Furthermore, my parents, Arturo aged 8 and Ramona aged 6 were exposed to a life of danger and hunger. They were forced to work as children to help feed their younger brothers and sisters never permitting them to complete their education. My parents had a traumatic childhood from which they never recovered.

Although, they experienced such sad childhoods, my parents returned to the country of their birth in 1948 educating and raising four American born children. The descendants of the over 1 million Mexican and Mexican Americans who were forcibly expelled are entitled to learn about this injustice as well as the courage of their ancestors. Moreover, other students from different backgrounds have a right to know about the experiences of these Americans. The State of California officially apologized to the survivors and their families in 2006 (SB 670) with a public ceremony in 2012. This is memorialized at the Plaza de Cultura y Artes in Los Angeles which makes it an ideal field trip experience for students. As a former elementary school educator, I think it imperative that all children learn about the courage of survivors and the 21st Century Californians who modeled responsible citizenship in the face of such heinous injustice.